



Public Perception on the Potential of Radicalism: A Survey on the Social Media Behavior of the Jakarta Community During the Pandemic

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Abstract- This study aims to measure how the relationship between community digital behavior and the potential for radicalism which can result in religious violent acts, especially during the outbreak of Pandemic Covid 19. This study uses a quantitative approach which makes the questionnaire as an interview tool to explain the relationship between the dependent variable and independent variables in conducting hypothesis testing. The sampling method uses Multistage Random Sampling, with the distribution of certain community characteristics. The findings of this study indicate that the radicalism potential index in Jakarta reaches 16.1. The attitude dimension has a higher value (32.8) than the understanding dimension (12.4), meaning that the number of people who do not understand the issue of radicalism or simply follow media trends is higher. The potential for radicalism is higher among women, generation Z as well as those who are active in spreading religious content on the internet. The index of potential for radicalism tends to be higher for those who are exclusivists.

Keywords: Covid 19, Radicalism, Social Media Behavior

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Radicalism and terrorism are still a concern for the community, both domestic and trans-national terrorism (Todd Sandler, 2014). In Indonesia context, there have been various terrorist incidents that occurred during the last two decades and have become important notes in the journey of the Indonesian nation (Fitriani et al 2018). One of the roots of terrorism is radicalism which grows in a spirit of exclusive religion so that it does not appreciate diversity and a very rich local culture (R Widyaningsih and Kuntarto 2018).

The current development of society indicates that social media has a big role in the occurrence of acts of terrorism. The exposure to radicalism by radical movements through various media makes Indonesians vulnerable to being exposed to this understanding. In fact, not a few have ended up becoming sympathizers and perpetrators of terror (PéterBányász, 2019). The factor that exposes people to radicalism is the existence of social vulnerability. Social vulnerability is a negative condition in society that makes them easily influenced by various negative understandings.

Based on the above considerations, the state must create deterrence for people who are vulnerable to being exposed to radicalism. If the state is able to manage these communities to become more prosperous, the potential for influence can turn into a strong deterrent. The community resilience referred to belief in law, welfare, public security defense, justice, freedom, religious profile, and local wisdom.

The survey results of the National Counterterrorism Agency and the Coordination Forum for the Prevention of Terrorism show that the most significant national deterrent against radicalism and terrorism is local wisdom and welfare. Very low public knowledge regarding local wisdom and low family education patterns which are the most effective prevention media will be able to increase the potential for radicalism in various places. The government can also carry out a strategy to increase inclusion in the financial sector to improve people's welfare (Fatwa, 2020).

Based on the findings of the 2017 national survey results, the potential for radicalism in Indonesia shows a number to worry about, namely 55.12 in the 0 to 100 range. This figure shows that the potential level of radicalism is in the Medium Potential category. The highest Radical Potential is reflected by the dominant factor of the Potential of Radical Understanding which is at 60.67 (Strong Potential) and the Potential of Radical Attitude at 55.70 (Medium Potential). Meanwhile, the potential for radicalism in Jakarta in 2017 shows a number to be concerned about, 54.27 in the 0-100 range. This figure shows that the potential level of radicalism is in the category of moderate potential. The potential for radicalism is reflected in

three dimensions, radical understanding at 57, 86 (strong potential), potential for radical attitudes at 55.45 (medium potential), and radical action at 49.5 (medium potential).

The potential for radicalism can also be viewed from the perspective of people's religious understanding or religious ideology (Barton 2002). Of course, local wisdom understanding is also very influential. Based on the findings of the 2018 National Counter Terrorism Agency survey, people's knowledge of local wisdom shows a score of 30.09 (in the Low category), while public trust in local wisdom as a deterrent against radicalism is at a score of 63.60 (in the High category). Therefore, local wisdom is believed and trusted by the community as values that can hold the Indonesian nation together and avoid negative external values.

But community insights are still very limited regarding local wisdom. The widely developed understanding is that local wisdom is part of culture only, even only as a tourism commodity, not as a basic value and national moral order. Community participation is still very low in the process of maintaining local wisdom as values, norms, speech culture and spatial planning.

The data shows the significant role of understanding and appreciation of local culture in carrying out the deradicalization process. As a follow-up step, the research will focus on the influence of social media on the potential for violent actions, especially in Jakarta during this pandemic. Jakarta as a capital city and growing metropolitan area is a complex development area with ranges of urban issues ((Yola, 2020 and Yola et al., 2020). In this case, it is important to measure the relationship between potential variables of radicalism and digital behavior in the pandemic era. This research is urgently needed by the government and the people of Indonesia on how to anticipate acts of terrorism in the capital city of Jakarta in difficult socio-economic and social times like today.

B. Research Method

This study uses a quantitative approach by optimizing the questionnaire as an interview tool that aims to explain the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable and perform hypothesis testing (Singarimbun, 1995). This research was carried out during the Covid Pandemic 19, where most residents stayed at home and reduced their outside activities.

The study was conducted in Jakarta. The sampling method is Multistage Random Sampling, with the distribution of the characteristics of the people of Jakarta with the criteria of age 14 - 55 years from five administrative cities (Central Jakarta, South Jakarta, East Jakarta, West Jakarta and North Jakarta) with a total of 400 respondents. The number of respondents per district / city is 80, and for the number of respondents per zone is 20 respondents, based on a combination of area (rural, urban), gender (male, female) and age (Generation Z, Millennial and Generation X). Generation Z (ages 14-19 years), Millennials (ages 20-39 years), Generation X (ages 40-55 years).

C. Research Results

In an effort to make the results of this study relevant to the stated research objectives, two things were tested quantitatively and then carefully explained and analyzed. The first is photographing the social media behavior of the people of Jakarta and mapping it from various aspects, including gender, age and generation classification. Second, seeing the potential for radicalism as a result of the virtual behavior of the Jakarta community. The way to explore this is by questioning the religious content that is frequently opened, the type of religious lecture that is preferred and the scholars who are often seen preaching on social media, both YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and others.

Respondent Profiles

1. Gender

The respondents in this study were residents of Jakarta, with the criteria being 14 years - 55 years old. Respondents amounted to 400 people with male gender 50.9% or as many as 201 people, while those who are female are 49.1% or 199 people. Overall, these data indicate that the sampling carried out is in accordance with the gender proportionality in Jakarta which is close to a ratio of 50: 50.

2. Status



figure 1: Status of respondents

Based on the above picture, the respondents obtained consisted of 400 people and the majority were married. As the numbers show 53.4% or 214 people are married, while 1.8% or 7 people are widowers / widows and 44.9% or 179 people are single.

3. Having Children Aged 5-17 Years

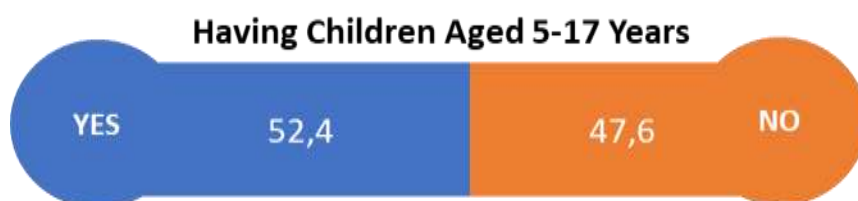


Figure 2: Respondent's Children

The picture above shows that the data of the research respondents showed that 52.4% or 210 people had children aged 5-17 years, while 47.6% or 190 people did not have children aged 5-17 years.

4. Age Classification

The distribution of the age characteristics of the respondents in this study, dominated by the millennial generation (age 20 - 39 years) of 55.0% or 220 people, while the age of generation X (age 40 - 55 years) was 28.4% or 114. people and the age of generation Z (age 14-19 years) is 16.6% or 66 people.

Portrait of Potential Radicalism

1. Radicalism Potential Index in Jakarta

The radicalism potential index in Jakarta in 2020 is measured in three dimensions with 17 indicators through three stages; measurement, data analytics and analysis. The data above shows that the potential index for radicalism in Jakarta is 16.1%, which comes from 400 respondents.

2. Dimensions of Radicalism in Jakarta

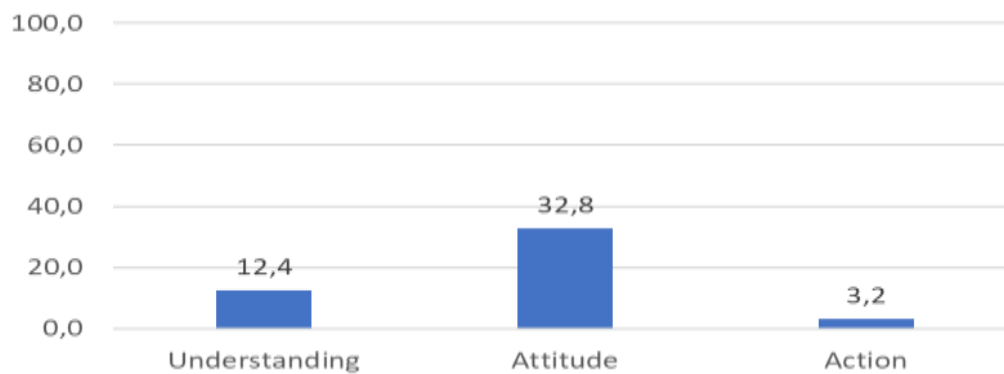


Figure 3: The Dimensions of Radicalism in Jakarta

Based on the table above, the distribution of potential radicalism in Jakarta from the characteristics of 400 respondents related to the understanding dimension was 12.4%, the attitude dimension was 32.8% and the action dimension was 3.2%. The radicalism potential index in Jakarta is included in the alert to safe category. The attitude dimension is the dimension with the highest value.

3. Radicalism Potential Index Based on Gender

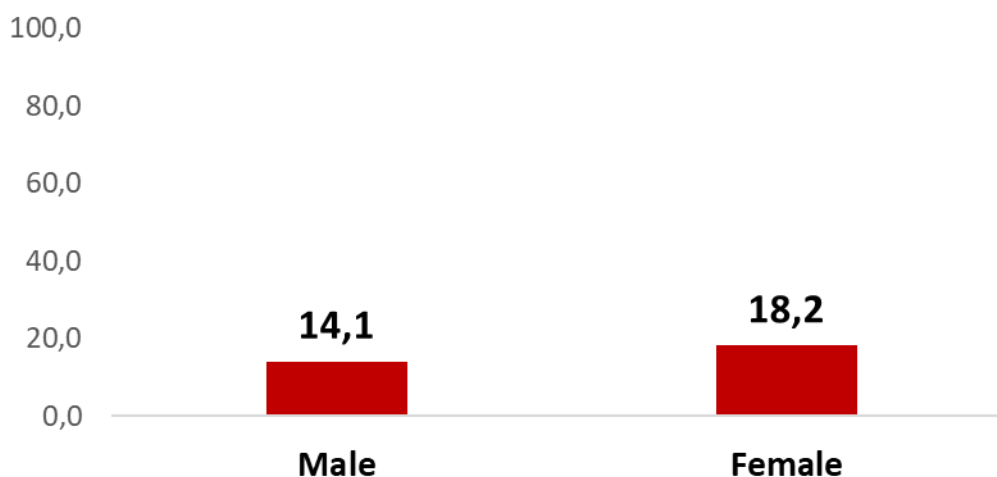


Figure 4: Radicalism Potential Index Based on Gender

Based on the table above, the index of potential radicalism in Jakarta based on gender is male (14.1%), and female (18.2%). Thus, the index of potential for radicalism tended to be higher among urbanites and women.

4. Radicalism Potential Index by Generation

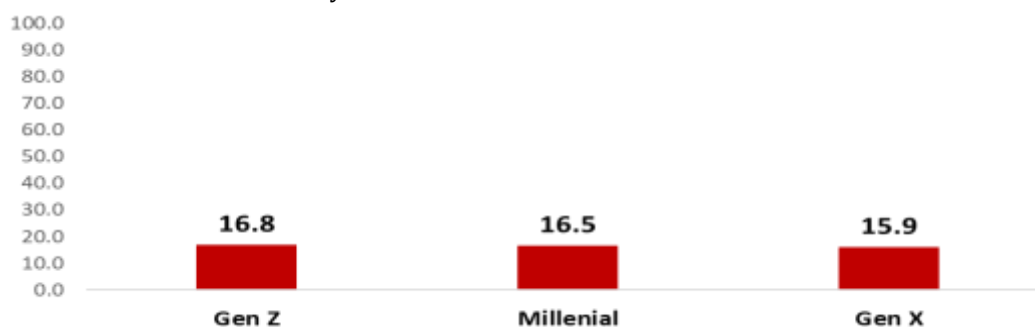


Figure 5: Radicalism Potential Index by Generation

Based on the table above, the radicalism potential index in Jakarta is based on the distribution of characteristics of 400 respondents, generation Z as much as 16.8%, millennial as much as 16.5%, and generation X as much as 15.9%. Thus the radicalism potential index tends to be higher in generation Z.

5. Radicalism Potential Index Based on Internet Access

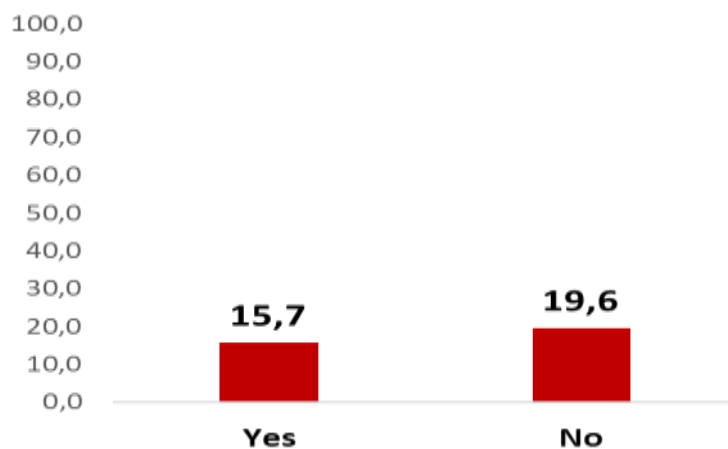


Figure 6: Radicalism Potential Index Based on Internet Access

Based on the table above, the index of potential for radicalism in Jakarta is based on the distribution of characteristics of 400 respondents, those who have accessed the internet are 15.7%, while those who do not access the internet are 19.6%.

6. Radicalism Potential Index who have searched for religious content via the internet

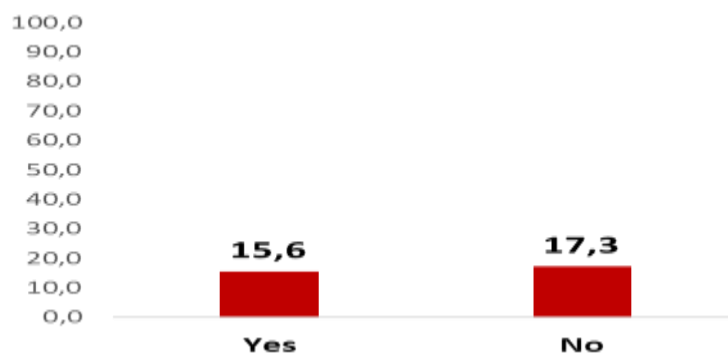


Figure 7: Radicalism Potential Index who have searched for religious content via the internet

Based on the table above, the index of potential for radicalism in Jakarta based on the distribution of characteristics of 363 respondents, those who have searched for religious information / content via the internet are 15.6%, while those who have never searched for religious information / content via the internet are 17.3% .

7. Radicalism Potential Index that has spread religious content via the internet

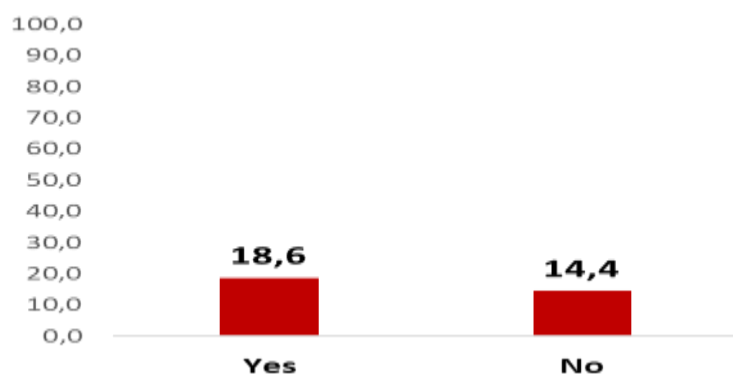


Figure 8: Radicalism Potential Index that has spread religious content via the internet

Based on the table above, the index of potential for radicalism in Jakarta based on the distribution of characteristics of 363 respondents, those who had spread religious information / content via the internet were 18.6%, while those who had never spread religious information / content via the internet were 14.4%.

8. Typology of Respondents

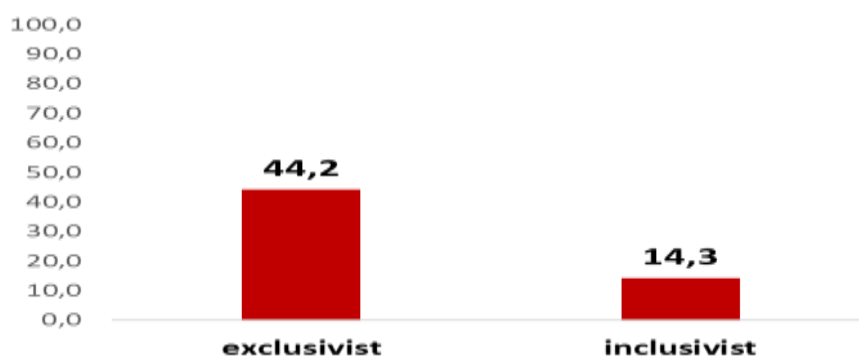


Figure 9: Typology of Respondents

Based on the table above, the distribution of exclusivist typology of respondents was 44.2% and inclusivist typology was 14.3%. Thus the index of potential for radicalism tends to be higher in those who are less literate and in those who are exclusivists.

II. CONCLUSION

This research shows that in a pandemic era where people do more virtual activities due to the effects of the government's large-scale social restrictions policy, the index of potential for radicalism in Jakarta reaches 16.1. The attitude dimension has a higher value (32.8) than the understanding dimension (12.4), meaning that people who do not understand or just join in higher. The potential for radicalism is higher among women, gen Z as well as those who are active in spreading religious content on the internet. The index of potential for radicalism tends to be higher for those who are exclusivists.

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